2: Durham B-5 (ca. 1910)1928 EG1 Albania EG1

witch in Albania; and though there can be no doubt that one has now and then been done away with, the general idea was that it was best not to interfere lest worse should follow. 754 [681]

Marko strongly believed this. A woman a few doors away from us was a shtriga, and he ascribed much ill-luck to her. He avoided her as much as possible, and did not speak with her. When the autumn began to turn cold, numbers of mice that had summered in the cornfields came into the house. My room swarmed, and they ran over me at night. I told Marko to buy a trap. He seldom forgot things, and when I asked for the trap in the evening, I was surprised that he had not bought one. Again next day I asked him not to forget the mouse-trap; and again there was no trap. Then Teresi, his wife, came to me and said: "Please do not ask Marko to buy a trap; he does not want to." "But why?" She hesitated. "Marko thinks the mice are sent." "Sent?" I asked. "But who can send them?" "Marko thinks that woman—the shtriga—has sent them." I was delighted and asked: "How do people send mice?" "Marko says that with Beelzebub all things are possible." "But why should we not kill the mice?" "Because she would be angry and send something worse. Perhaps rats! Who knows?" [136]

It was clearly impossible to trap the mice. I considered the situation, and next day asked if we might have a cat. Marko thought deeply. He then said it was natural for a cat to kill mice; we, in fact, should be powerless to prevent it, and should not be responsible. The cat was obtained—a splendid mouser; and so we defeated the shtriga. It is clearly better not to incense them. [136 825]

Men also are magicians, but I think not so often. A magician appeared at Nikaj when I was there. He was believed by the priest, whose guest I was, and by Marko to be so diabolical that the former ordered him to leave the parish, and neither of them would let me go out without a strong bodyguard; so I never got near him. He was famed for being able to raise many devils by dancing and wagging one leg behind him, and was believed to have come to Nikaj because most of the women were shtrigas.

A magician in Albanian is "maghistar" or "menghistar." Magic is "maghi" or "menghi"; "menghi" is also a remedy. In early days medicine and magic were one and the same. The words appear to be derived from, or connected with, "magus." The wise man of old used spells just as did the "wise woman" of the English village.

A strange tale which all believed was told of such a man who had worked much harm with magic in the Djakova district. One of the local beys, therefore, arrested him and locked him up. When he had been some time imprisoned the bey was one day entertaining guests on a feast day. The party was dull, and someone asked where that magician

2: Durham B-5 (ca. 1910)1928 EG1 Albania EG1
Contemporary Macedonians EF8
Montenegrins EF5

enough creature near Scutari, was esteemed as very good for consumptive patients.

The flesh of the common land tortoise was thought of great value for all convalescents. When I came out of hospital Marko had prepared a savoury stew for my supper. I ate heartily. "Thank God!" cried the good old man, "you have eaten 'breshké,' and you will soon be strong and well." He fetched the shell of the large tortoise which had provided my meal.

So common are these tortoises that an Albanian proverb says: "There is no mountain without a wolf and no plain without a tortoise."

Diseases.—Intestinal troubles of all kinds are rife in the Balkans, owing to bad food, and in some districts to a morbid appetite for very acid food. Intestinal worms—tape, thread, and round—are very common. A preparation of buckthorn is given.

Infant mortality is excessively high all through the Balkans. If a mother can nurse her child till the flocks are giving milk plentifully it stands a chance; if not, it is fed on parboiled maize-flour and heavy maize-bread. The abdomen swells greatly, and the child often dies; and, as I have stated, desire to preserve the child from the Evil Eye causes many to be half-suffocated in the cradle. Only the toughest survive, and they are very tough. The Albanians, Montenegrins, and Macedonians, whom I have had charge of as sick or wounded, do not suffer from shock, nor are they as sensitive to pain as West Europeans.

Wounds.—The Albanian tribesmen were far cleverer with wounds than with sickness. They had a traditional antiseptic treatment which was very successful. Old Marash Hutzi of Hoti, who had learnt the art from his grandfather, explained it to me. A wound must never be touched with water; it must be thoroughly washed out with rakia (brandy distilled from grapes). He judged the state of a wound by smelling it carefully. When well washed—when it perforated a limb he poured rakia right through—he dressed it with an ointment he made from white wax, olive oil, pine resin, and a decoction of the bark of green elder twigs. If deep, he plugged it with wool soaked in this ointment. In hot weather the dressings should be changed twice a day; and so long as the wound was foul he washed it daily with rakia. He saved a leg—compound comminuted fracture caused by horse-kick—which the Turkish military surgeon was going to amputate and made a quite usable, though rather shortened, limb of it. The grateful patient gave him thirty francs, the biggest fee the good old man had ever received. He had made his own instruments—some probes, forceps, a small saw made from a barrel hoop, and some knives.

From his grandfather's and his own experience he had a fair knowledge of where the main arteries ran, "where it was safe to cut and where

ALBANIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

000 mellowing into ripeness on the mountains
137 surrounding Elbasan. These same mountains
are well-timbered, giving rich promise of
136 future wealth. However, these mountainous
forests are so dense and wild that they are
veritably thick with bears, wild boars, wolves
and other savage animals, an excellent but
dangerous opportunity for the game-hunter.
131 Being the center from which all the roads
radiate; to Korcha (Korça) in one direction, and to Durazzo (Durrës) in the other, Elbasan may be rightly called the "naval" of Albania. This old center of Turkish strife is also the natural boundary between the Ghegs and the Tosks: northern and southern
197 Albanians. It also marks the difference in the pronunciation of the native dialects. North of the River Shkumbi many words have an "n" where on the southern side these same words have an "r." The dialect spoken by the inhabitants of Elbasan is intelligible to the natives in either of the extremes of the country, being proverbially as beautiful as the Greek of Athens and the Turkish of Constantinople. For this reason the native tongue, as spoken by an Elbasanian, has been adopted as the basis of the language of the whole country.

[of Librazhd--Analyst] 124

Hunting with the Gun and Camera

224

GAME throughout Albania is plentiful both in the hills and in the sea and the lakes. Especially in the northern Alps, where in many places man has never set foot, there is a great quantity of big game. Bear, deer, cats of almost every species, fox, wolves, etc., have all at some time or other made their presence known. Many of the natives of these regions are expert huntsmen and have learned the habits of these beasts as well as any man ever will. They have acted as guides for many parties and the members of such groups have returned enthusiastic with ample proof of their prowess and bigger stories about "the one that got away." These men always come back for another adventurous holiday having left their wives to sight-see throughout the country and at the end it is hard to tell which one has more enjoyed his or her holiday.

136

All of the lakes of Albania possess a limitless amount of fish of all varieties. Lake Scutari is considered the wealthiest in this respect, especially in eels. There are some

ALBANIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

136 interesting hours to be enjoyed by those who 226 derive keen satisfaction from this sport. The elusive trout can make a difficult goal when pursuited to his familiar haunts in the mountain streams. Or if more adventurously inclined to test one's ability over the broad bays and lagoons or cruising the deep seas and matching the lightning skill of the tarpon or sail fish which is ticklish work for the best of the "Isaak Waltons." To the man who has felt inwardly proud of his mess of perch, just let him realize his dreams of great fishing in Albania.

136 For camera studies in Albania, bird life presents itself as the best subject. The most ordinary bird in this country is the common jay, but also in the Acroceraunian mountains is found the elusive, great black woodpecker, whose presence was authenticated for the first time in 1935. In this region the magpie is not very common.

In the forests near Durazzo there is a variety of feathered life, such as six species of woodpecker, jay, hawfinch, nuthatch and short-toed tree-creeper. Nests of the black woodpecker were discovered in the forests in the Drin valley along with the hazel grouse

and the capercaillie, Europe's biggest game bird. 136

In the more travelled forests the common nesters are the nightingale, Cetti's warbler, sub-alpine warbler and cirl bunting. The lakes and bogs of Bojana have a number of purple herons, great egrets, and bitterns. Among the lake nests at Durazzo are the yellow-legged herring gull and the pelican, and also the Dalmatian pelican at the Kravasat Lagoon.

Small birds found in the highest mountains are the alpine accentor and alpine chough, and in the lower ranges are the skylark, linnet, partridge, rock-trush and wheatear, which bird is the traditional "sign of spring;" dippers haunt the mountain streams.

The Imperial Eagle is fairly common in Albania, and is smaller than the golden eagle and has a white patch on its shoulders. This eagle is a bird of prey and was found nesting in a huge plane tree in open country below Delvina. The booted Hawk-Eagle, about two feet long with white shoulder patch and long legs, nests in the Logra Forest. Hobbies and small, beetle-hunting falcons infest the swamps of Fier and Lushnja. The sea-eagle

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

136 is to be seen fishing at Butrinto Bay, while there is an old established eyrie at Durazzo Lake which sells the young annually.

Other birds of prey are the harrier-eagle, a long-tailed, dark brown bird with small chest, and the Egyptian vulture, a bird a little larger than the buzzard and uglier by reason of its color of dirty white, black-tipped wings and bare, yellow skin. These birds live principally around Durazzo, Logra Pass, Saranda and Valona.

Valona and Saranda, with vast numbers of storks, have been mentioned elsewhere in this book, but it is amusing to see these great birds, mostly white, following the ploughs with ambling ungainly strides in search of worms.

The common heron, as found in Great Britain and most of Europe, is to be seen in many districts of Albania.

There is an abundance of wild duck in Albania of the black and white tufted variety along with the diving duck, the pintail and the gargeney, all to be found mainly on Durazzo Lake. On a little island near Corfu is the common wild duck or mallard of Europe

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

•136 nesting with a large colony of yellow-legged herring-gulls.

For a delicious meal, one should try the wood-pigeon or ring-dove, so common in England, that stays mostly in the Logra Forest, where also nests the Robin as high as 2,500 feet.

The hooded crow, jackdaw, the raven, golden oriole and chaffinch are common birds of Albania. The nesting chaffinches examined were found to be the subspecies *Fringilla coelebs balearica.*

Spanish sparrows and common blackbirds are widespread, and in the nesting season, the white wagtail is confined to the shoreland cliffs and boulders.

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 AlbaniaEG1

coast of the Adriatic from Himara to the frontier of Greece;

(8) The lakes of Pogradec, Ochrida and Prespa.

There are all kinds of fish to be found in these waters, mainly: bass, trout, eel, carp, whitebait, red mullet, sole, sea-fish, etc.

The proceeds from these sales are generally between 350,000 and 400,000 gold Francs annually, although there are some years when the amounts are remarkably higher.

There is no element of risk in this industry.

This industry promises to become an immense source of revenue when fully developed on a modern basis and for this purpose foreign capital is urgently needed and would be welcomed in Albania.

4: Garnett B-4, 5 (ca. 1880) 1891
EG1 Albania EG1

bathing the affected member three times in warm water, rubbing it with salt, and finally passing over it the blade of a knife with the words, "As this salt melts, so may the evil melt!" The house is then swept with a new broom, the sweeper saying as the dust is swept out, "So may all evil be swept away!"

If ringworm (οὐθι) appears with the new, it may be made to disappear with the waning moon, by covering the place with wood ashes, and repeating at the same time the charm:

> Came the spot and made him foul,
> Came the ash and made him whole.[1]

The remedy for the bite of a tarantula is to place the sufferer on a heap of dung, while nine women bearing the name of Maro[2] sit round him in a circle and chant the following incantation:—

> Nine Maros here are we,
> And but one art thou.
> Thou hast worked, thy work succeeds;
> We have worked without success.
> Evil hast thou wrought,
> Good do thou now work,
> O mistress spider![3]

When an Albanian wife has no children, or is the mother of girls only, she, like her Greek sister, attributes her misfortune to some enemy of her family having tied together a number of nettles with this object, and has recourse to counter-spells in order to

[1] Ἐβὰ σίβι ἐ ναρατὸι
Ἐβὰ χὶτ ἐ ναρατὶτ (lit. "drank it up").

[2] Perhaps, like the similar Greek name, a form of Maria or Mary.

[3] Tarantulas are called by the Albanians by the generic name for spider μαϊμαρια. Comp. Von Hahn's *Albanesische Studien*, p. 157.

4: Garnett B-4, 5 (ca. 1880) 1891
EG1 Albania EG1

789 hearth, in order that he may take away with him all
788 danger from fire for the coming year.

St. John's Eve is observed in Albania with the
789 customary bonfire, to leap over which is considered so
372 salutary that even the old people venture to do so at least once. A curious ceremony, performed about this season, when the spring sowing is concluded, may also be here mentioned. Standing with his back to the plough, the farmer rubs part of the
● [136] handle with earth in the belief that the wild swine will thus be prevented from damaging his crops.

789 On the day on which the new moon is first seen, all possible work is avoided, and no important task of any kind, such as ploughing, sowing, or harvesting, is commenced, for it would be sure to be unsuccessful. The girls and children look at the moon through a sieve, and rub their faces with a piece of silver, while they sing:

[539]

Young moon!
Young maid!
Health to me;
Ill to thee!
Head as soft as dough be thine!
Head as hard as stone be mine!

777 The 9th, 19th, and 29th days of every month are considered unlucky, as is also the Tuesday of every week, for setting out on a journey, or commencing any kind of work. Friday is also an inauspicious day
[241] for sowing, and Saturday for beginning to plough or dig.

●136 As might be expected the mountains and forests of this little-developed country still harbor a number of dangerous wild animals. The lion of Homeric times is gone, but the bear, the wolf, and the wild boar remain. Deer graze on the high mountain slopes, and in the forests, but the Ghegs will not kill them. The only wild animals of any economic importance are the various members of the weasel family, particularly martens, which a number of mountaineers trap for fur. Otherwise the fauna is a nuisance, since bears and wolves will steal sheep and kill cattle, and flocks need constant guarding by one or more men with rifles and a number of ferocious dogs.

131 It is in this environment, which must have changed but little since Roman and even earlier times, that the tribal Ghegs have survived until the present day, retaining a language and customs which carry them back to the Iron Age. The land forms, the climate, the geographical position away from main routes of travel and migration, all combine to make the mountains and forests of Ghegnia one of the most marginal and isolated regions of Europe. It is a true refuge area, comparable to the Caucasus and the western Himalayan reaches, the Appalachians, and the Ozarks.

1 [See cat. 116, pp. 8a - 10b --Analyst]

10: Hasluck F-5 (1926-1939)1954 EGl Albania EGl

land. A high proportion of the year's rainfall falls in November and March:[1]

NOVEMBER	MARCH
Durrës 215 mm. (8·46 in.)	100 mm. (3·94 in.)
Shkodër 209 mm. (8·23 in.)	162 mm. (6·38 in.)
Krujë 337 mm. (13·27 in.)	157 mm. (6·18 in.)
Pukë 260 mm. (10·24 in.)	202 mm. (7·95 in.)

When a storm breaks over the mountains, every river and rivulet in the storm-swept area rises rapidly because the surface soil is seldom deep enough to retain much of the falling rain. In furious spate the rivers rush steeply towards the sea and, as they near the coast, spread far beyond their banks, engulfing many acres of arable land, and enlarging the marshes and lagoons so that they engulf many more. Because of this flooding, wheat cannot be sown near the coast. If sown in autumn, the November floods would wash it away, and after the March floods the ground does not dry in time for a spring sowing. Maize is, consequently, the only crop that can be raised. While awaiting its planting in late May, the fields lie fallow and grass-grown. The March floods are also responsible for the striking size and number of the hay meadows; much land never dries enough to grow even maize and must be left permanently under grass.

Climatically, too, the coastal plain dovetails into the high pastures. Whereas the mountains are deep in snow all winter, the temperature at the coast never falls quite to freezing-point. In January, the coldest month, the average recorded for Durrës and Valona (Vlonë) is respectively 47 and 48 degrees, with 40 and 41½ degrees at inland Shkodër and Tirana (Tiranë). Rain falls frequently and heavily, but unless a sudden rise in a river catches sheep unawares and sweeps them out to sea, neither animals nor shepherds come to much harm. By the end of May, when the rains cease, everything changes, and life near the swamps becomes intolerable for man and beast. Day temperatures rise swiftly towards their summer maximum of 86 degrees and the nights are hot, so that every movement is a burden. The dense vegetation of the swamps exudes odours as foetid as those in a tropical forest. Swarms of malaria-carrying mosquitoes emerge from the stagnant pools to attack man; swarms of gadflies, more savage than any

[1] Gashi, *Shqipnija*, p. 49.

10:Hasluck F-5 (1926-1939)1954 EGl Albania EGl

known inland, attack beast; when thirst, a rarity in winter, drives an animal to forget its instinctive caution and to drink from a swamp, as likely as not a crop of leeches fastens on its tongue. So, as soon as they have sown their maize, the shepherds and their families and flocks desert the hot coast for the healthful pastures of the mountains.

[by the end of may--Analyst]